



Young local windsurf talents practice for HiWinds

ORANJESTAD – The approaching HiWinds itch is here again. The new growth of windsurfers of the Wind Racers Club Aruba (WRCA) are ready to ride the waves. In order to be well prepared for the HiWinds competition lasting from June 27th thru July 2nd these windsurfers participated the last couple of months in the mini HiWinds organized by Aruba Active Vacations (AAV). Coming weekend there will be a special training session and on Sunday June 24th the last preparatory competition prior to the HiWinds.

The names that result in the top 3 are each time those of the twin brothers Quincy and Wesley Connor and the brothers Nik and Mack van den Eerenbeemt. Other young talents are nine year old Mathias Verploeg and 12 year old Nicole van der Velden, the best girl on the board. Other names which will not go unnoticed during the HiWinds are Berend Pronk, Bart Kole, Zjevaun Janga, the brothers Rens and Sil Grijpma, Bart van Haren, Amanda and Ethan Westera.

Fruit of their long hours of practice was visible during the last freestyle competition.

Nice high jumps were landed. A double body-drag, a gecko flaka, a planing duck jibe and vulcans! During the long distance race 8 year old Mack came in first in both his own category B and the older category A. Steven Lageveen who only started to windsurf a couple of months ago and participated for the first time in the mini-Hi-winds came in surprisingly in third position in the B group.

The WRCA in conjunction with AAV organise training and competition during the whole year at different locations such as Boca Grandi (wave) and at Barcadera (side shore wind). However the favorite spot of these young guns remains the Fishermen's Huts with its steady offshore wind and flatwater conditions. Our hope is that all the beach people, watersporters as well as the tourists will be able to enjoy this beautiful location for a long time and that plans for hotel construction at this unique spot in Aruba will not take place.

Mini-HiWinds results

Race (2x slalom and 1x longdistance):

Group A: 1. Quincy Connor 2. Nik van den Eerenbeemt 3. Nicole van der Velden

Group B: 1. Mack van den Eerenbeemt 2. Mathias Verploeg. 3. Steven Lageveen.

High Jump and Jibe

Group A: Wesley Connor

Group B: Mathias Verploeg

Freestyle:

Group A: Quincy Connor

Group B: Mathias Verploeg

Picture caption

The new generation windsurfers of the Wind Racers Club Aruba (WRCA) together

with their coaches during a practice session at Barcadera. Foto courtesy of Sabine Goeretz